

WE CLAIM:

1. A disk drive for use with a computer system configured to generate a command, the disk drive comprising:
 - a. a host-accessible user partition including:
 - i. a user partition address range;
 - ii. a host-selected operating system stored within the user partition address range; and
 - iii. a host-selected master boot record stored within the user partition address range, the host selected master boot record identifying the host-selected operating system;
 - b. a host-inaccessible hidden partition independent of the host-accessible user partition and including:
 - i. a hidden partition address range outside the user partition address range;
 - ii. a drive-selected boot record stored within the hidden partition address range, the drive-selected boot record configured to load an instruction set capable of executing an application program having a user interface for accepting a user selection identifying the user-selectable function to be performed, to execute the application program, to accept the user selection identifying the user-selectable function to be performed, and to load an operating system configured to perform the user-selectable function; and
 - iii. at least one drive-selected operating system configurable to perform at least one user-selectable function; and
 - c. a disk controller configured to receive the command from the computer system and to send the drive-selected boot record to the computer system in response to receipt of the command.
2. The disk drive of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface.
3. The disk drive of Claim 1, wherein the operating system configured to perform the user-selectable function is the drive-selected operating system.
4. The disk drive of Claim 1, wherein the operating system configured to perform the user-selectable function is the host-selected operating system.
5. The disk drive of Claim 1, wherein the command is a boot command.

- 1 6. The disk drive of Claim 5, wherein the sending of the drive-selected boot record to the computer
2 system by the disk controller, in response to the boot command, is a default operation.

1 7. A computer system comprising:

2 a. a disk drive including:

3 i. a host-accessible user partition including:

4 (1) a user partition address range;

5 (2) a host-selected operating system stored within the user partition address range; and

6 (3) a host-selected master boot record stored within the user partition address range, the
7 host-selected master boot record identifying the host-selected operating system;

8 ii. a host-inaccessible hidden partition independent of the host-accessible user partition
9 and including:

10 (1) a hidden partition address range outside the user partition address range; and

11 (2) a drive-selected boot record stored within the hidden partition address range; and

12 b. a host computer coupled to the disk drive and including:

13 i. a host processor configured to generate a command to read the host-selected master
14 boot record; and

15 ii. a host memory configured to load the drive-selected boot record to define a loaded
16 drive-selected boot record, after the disk drive receives the command;

17 iii. the host processor configured to execute the loaded drive-selected boot record, the
18 drive-selected boot record configured to load an instruction set capable of executing an
19 application program having a user interface for accepting a user selection identifying the
20 user-selectable function to be performed, to execute the application program, to accept the
21 user selection identifying the user-selectable function to be performed, and to load an
22 operating system configured to perform the user-selectable function.

1 8. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface.

1 9. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein the operating system configured to perform the user-
2 selectable function is the drive-selected operating system.

1 10. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein the operating system configured to perform the user-
2 selectable function is the host-selected operating system.

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